Contact Information:

* https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html
* Call line dedicated to Coronavirus enquiries: **1-833-784-4397 (24/7) Tele message, 9am.-9pm M-F, 9-5 sat**

**Temporary Income Support for Workers and Parents**

* For Canadians without paid sick leave (or similar workplace accommodation) who are sick, quarantined or forced to stay home to care for children, the Government is:
  + Waiving the one-week waiting period for those individuals in imposed quarantine that claim Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits. This temporary measure will be in effect as of March 15, 2020.
  + Waiving the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits.
* Introducing the Emergency Care Benefit providing up to $900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks. This flat-payment Benefit would be administered through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and provide income support to:
  + Workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
  + Workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
  + Parents with children who require care or supervision due to school or daycare closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.
  + Application for the Benefit will be available in April 2020, and require Canadians to attest that they meet the eligibility requirements. They will need to re-attest every two weeks to reconfirm their eligibility. Canadians will select one of three channels to apply for the Benefit:
    1. By accessing it on their CRA My Account secure portal;
    2. By accessing it from their secure My Service Canada Account(with photo ID and your SIN number a Personal Access Code(PAC) can be acquired by visiting Service Canada-when it is safe to do so; or
    3. By calling, a toll free number equipped with an automated application process.

**NOTE: This measure will be implemented once the necessary legislation has received royal assent in early April. Also, keep in mind the staff and systems are not set up for the mass volumes of people they will have to support. Therefore, it may take some time for things to be processed. It usually takes 28 days to process a regular EI application. You may have to be patient. Although this is from a CRA program, Employment Insurance programs do back pay you in most cases even if you are not able to apply right away.**

**Income Support for Individuals Who Need It Most**

The government has thought about the folks we support. These programs are still in the process of being approved, and they have to decide how these funds will be accessed.

View: *https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html* for any updated information. Things are changing weekly, daily, and sometimes hourly.

* For over 12 million low- and modest-income families, who may require additional help with their finances, the Government is proposing to provide a one-time special payment by early May 2020 through the Goods and Services Tax credit (GSTC). This will double the maximum annual GSTC payment amounts for the 2019-20 benefit year. The average boost to income for those benefitting from this measure will be close to $400 for single individuals and close to $600 for couples. This measure will inject $5.5 billion into the economy.
* For over 3.5 million families with children, who may also require additional support, the Government is proposing to increase the maximum annual Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment amounts, only for the 2019-20 benefit year, by $300 per child. The overall increase for families receiving CCB will be approximately $550 on average; these families will receive an extra $300 per child as part of their May payment. In total, this measure will deliver almost $2 billion in extra support.
  + Together, the proposed enhancements of the GSTC and CCB will give a single parent with two children and low to modest income nearly **$1,500** in additional short-term support.
* To ensure that certain groups who may be vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 have the support they need, the Government is proposing targeted help by:
  + Providing the Reaching Home initiative with $157.5 million to continue supporting people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak. The funding could be used for a range of needs such as purchasing beds and physical barriers for social distancing and securing accommodation to reduce overcrowding in shelters.
  + Supporting women and children fleeing violence, by providing up to $50 million to women’s shelters and sexual assault centers to help with their capacity to manage or prevent an outbreak in their facilities. This includes funding for facilities in Indigenous communities.

**Flexibility for Taxpayers**

* In order to provide greater flexibility to Canadians who may be experiencing hardships during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Canada Revenue Agency will defer the filing due date for the 2019 tax returns of individuals, including certain trusts.
* For individuals (other than trusts), the return filing due date will be deferred until June 1, 2020. However, the Agency encourages individuals who expect to receive benefits under the GSTC or the Canada Child Benefit not to delay the filing of their return to ensure their entitlements for the 2020-21 benefit year are properly determined.